Safety Net Systems Awareness

TRADE: GENERAL CONSTRUCTION	LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES	USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Use this leader guide before safety net systems awareness work to review the real setup, the controls that need to be in place, and the conditions that should stop the task. Falls usually start with a small setup problem: the wrong access method, a missing edge/opening control, an unstable base, or a worker reaching farther than the system was designed to allow. The crew should be able to point to the fall exposure and the exact protection before anyone climbs or steps into the area.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

The crew begins Safety Net Systems Awareness with the planned edge/opening controls in place. Another trade moves a guard, cover, ladder, or material to get through. Nobody is injured and the task is still on schedule. What must be rechecked before anyone is exposed again?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Walk the actual access route and point out edges, openings, transitions and landing areas before anyone climbs.
- Inspect the selected ladder/scaffold/lift/fall-protection components and remove damaged equipment from service.
- Clear the base and landing areas so the access system cannot be struck, blocked or set on unstable footing.
- Use safety nets only where the system has been designed, installed and tested for the specific fall exposure.
- Maintain required clearance below the net so a falling worker cannot contact a lower surface or obstruction.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Use safety nets only where the system has been designed, installed and tested for the specific fall exposure.
- Maintain required clearance below the net so a falling worker cannot contact a lower surface or obstruction.
- Inspect nets and connections after installation, after events that could affect them and at the required frequency.
- Remove debris and objects from nets promptly so the system remains capable of arresting a fall.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Choosing access equipment that is too short, unstable or poorly positioned for the actual reach.
- Allowing a guard, cover, tie-off point or walking surface to change without stopping exposure.
- Carrying material or reaching in a way that moves the worker's center of balance outside the safe system.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- Required guardrails, covers, access equipment or fall protection are missing, damaged or moved.
- The walking/working surface becomes wet, unstable, obstructed or otherwise different from the planned condition.
- The task requires reaching, climbing or positioning outside the safe working limits of the selected system.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. Where is the actual fall exposure in today's work path, and what protects the worker at that exact point?
2. What access/fall-protection component must be inspected before use, and what defect would take it out of service?
3. What part of the task could tempt someone to overreach, climb, step around a guard, or leave the protected position?
4. If the surface, access, guard, anchor, weather, or work position changes, what has to be reset before anyone continues?
5. What must be rechecked before anyone is exposed again?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Point to the fall exposure and physically show the crew the access/protection that controls it.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.502(c) - Safety Net Systems

LidLog

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Safety Net Systems Awareness

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.